

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Ralph DLG Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

When we met in Washington last week, along with the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corporation, a number of you expressed concern about how the Trump administration is implementing U.S. Public Law 115-53.

You said there are cases in which the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is wrongfully denying applications for Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker permits for gardeners, hotel maintenance workers, and Commonwealth Utility Corporation engineers because the new law bars the use of CW permits for new construction workers.

I agree this interpretation appears inconsistent with the intent of the law.

Please send me these specific cases or any others in which a permit applicant believes that misclassification as a new construction worker has occurred. I will promptly refer the case to USCIS as a congressional inquiry to help ensure it receives timely and thorough review.

In fact, the congressional office has already managed three such cases. In two the misclassification was corrected and the permits awarded. A decision in the third case is pending.

As you know, the intent of Public Law 115-53 was to protect our local business people, who depend on CW workers, from the flood of new construction workers that began in 2016 and used up as many as 5,000 CW permits. I will continue to do all I can to prevent harm to our local business community or legacy CW workers, as I have with the cases already brought to me for help.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress

cc: Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corporation

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